

## LOW MEETS STOP LOVEGROWING.

Meets Committee from Merchants' Association and Tells Them He Will Bring Matter to Notice of Corporation Counsel

### "NO SEAT OR NO FARE" CRY.

Trip Service Demanded, and the Governor May Be Called Upon to Take a Hand in the Matter in the Near Future.

Mayor Low met the Committee on Franchises and Transportation of the Merchants' Association at his office at 11 o'clock this morning, and after thoroughly going over the questions presented by the neglect of the surface and elevated roads to provide proper transportation facilities for the public, he expressed himself heartily in accord with the committee in its efforts to compel the roads to improve the present conditions.

**Mayor to Take a Hand.**  
He assured the committee that he would write to the presidents of the transportation companies and would take the matter up with the Corporation Counsel.

The members of the committee who called upon the Mayor were William F. King, chairman; John C. Eames, Henry R. Towne, George L. Duval and S. C. Mead, and all expressed themselves well satisfied with the result of the conference.

No definite proposition was made to the Mayor regarding the necessary means to do away with the traffic congestion, but the subject was generally considered.

"It is first necessary to determine what the city's powers are under the different charters," said Mr. King. "It is the duty of the railway people themselves to solve the problem, and we intend to see that they shall do it."

"There are two clubs to use. One is no seat, no fare; the other is to take away their franchises."

"Are you going to take the matter to Gov. Odell?" he was asked.

**Odell the Last Resort.**

"Gov. Odell is heartily with us," he replied, "but I don't see how I can except as a last resort. Right here is the place for the work to be done. And the Mayor is willing to go further even than we proposed. He wants the motor-men to be protected by vestibules."

Asked just what the committee wishes to accomplish, Mr. King said: "In the first place, we do not want trip service. We want the same service from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night, that is given during the rush hours, if that is necessary to give all the people who ride seats. We are in this fight now to a finish, and there will be no compromise. We want the bookstands, candy stands and advertising bill boards removed from the elevated tracks. The stations are depots for the convenience of the public and they do not belong to the railway companies. In the same track they can be used for any other than railway purposes."

**Solved the Problem.**

Regarding the solving of the problems of traffic congestion, Mr. King said: "The Assistant Secretary of the Merchants' Association, said that if the companies spent half as much time in trying to solve them as they do in devising schemes to impose upon the public, their difficulties would very soon disappear."

For example, they tell us that the congestion at Broadway and Thirty-fourth street cannot be solved, they cannot devise any scheme to do away with the crossings there. But, in fact, four of the crossings at that corner street today are avoided by riding the Broadway cars up Sixth avenue at Thirty-fourth street and by switching the Sixth avenue cars down Broadway when they only an example of the case with which many of the difficulties could be removed if the companies would only seek for remedies.

A resolution introduced by Alderman McInnes was passed today by the Board of Aldermen, granting the State Railroad Commission the use of the Aldermen's Chamber for the public hearing on Friday, Dec. 23, when the matter of the inadequate facilities of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company will be heard.

Protesting tax payers of Brooklyn, who assert that traffic conditions in Brooklyn are the worst in the city, and that the abrogation of the company's charter.

**MILLIONS IN TRACTION DEAL.**

**Interstate Railway Gets United Power and Transportation.**

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Announcement was made to-day that control of the United Power and Transportation Company has been placed in the hands of the Interstate Railway Company, at \$75 a share, payable in forty year collateral trust gold coupon bonds, to be issued by the Interstate Railway Company. The bonds will be dated Feb. 1, 1903, and will bear interest at the rate of 3 per cent. for the first year, 3 1/2 for the second and 4 for the third year and thereafter.

The Interstate Railway Company was incorporated recently in New Jersey with a capital of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of operating electric companies and street railways in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The United Power and Transportation is also a New Jersey corporation, chartered in 1899. Its authorized capital was \$12,500,000, of which \$7,125,000, par \$25, full paid, is outstanding.

**SHIPPING NEWS.**

**THE TIDES.**

High Water. Low Water.

Anty Hook. A.M. P.M. A.M. P.M.

Governor's Island. 2.59 3.17 9.25 9.33

Hell Gate Ferry. 4.32 5.10 10.57 11.07

**PORT OF NEW YORK.**

**ARRIVED.**

La Campina. Antwerp.

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## FIREBOMB SCARE ON WEST SIDE.

Eleven Incendiary Blazes, All in Basements of Tenements, in Early Morning Cause Wide-spread Alarm.

### MANY LIVES IMPERILED.

Actress Is Rescued, Unconscious, at One Fire To-day, and Many Persons Fled from Crowded Buildings by Fire-Escapes.

Because of the numerous fires of a similar nature on the west side of the city, the fire department has been called early each morning to extinguish three and four fires in the cellars of tenements.

Alarms for five fires close to each other were turned in last Saturday morning. Three were turned in yesterday morning and three this morning.

All of them were for fires in the cellars of densely populated tenement-houses. The first fire this morning was found in the basement of a Chinese laundry on the first floor of the five-story tenement-house at No. 572 West Fortieth street. Policeman Rogers ran through the building awakening the sleeping residents, most of whom are said to be actors. Smoke had so filled the room occupied by Lottie Palmer, an actress, that she was partly suffocated and had to be carried down three flights of stairs to the street, where she was resuscitated.

The haste with which the tenants left the building was so great that only a few stopped for clothes, and the streets filled with men and women in nothing more protecting than night robes.

The fire was confined to the cellar and to an air-shaft in the rear. After \$1,000 damage had been done it was extinguished.

Soon after this fire was discovered in the cellar of the five-story tenement-house at No. 428 West Forty-sixth street, occupied on the first floor by Charles Miller, a grocer, and by three poor Italian families on the upper floors.

A stampede among the tenants followed the alarm of fire, and all who could rushed from the building in scant attire. Several policemen went through the building and found John and Arthur Sullivan, two homeless boys, asleep in the elevated lot.

The fire was so heavy they were overcome. The police carried them to the street.

Many of the tenants escaped by means of the regular fire-escapes, and others were taken down by the firemen. From the amount of smoke it was believed the whole building was on fire. The damage will be about \$1,000.

The third fire this morning was in the cellar owned by Morris Wahlmann, on the second floor of the six-story tenement-house at No. 512 West Forty-second street. Here there were escapes similar to those at the preceding fires.

Circumstances caused the police to suspect arson. A number of detectives were put on the case, and the damage in this place will not exceed \$500.

**HORSE PLUNGED THROUGH CAR.**

**Several Women Passengers**

**Were Injured in Wreck on Sixth Avenue Caused by a Runaway.**

**RIG WAS LEFT STANDING.**

A runaway horse attached to a butcher's wagon plunged half through the side of a Sixth avenue electric car filled with women shoppers at Thirty-eighth street today, injuring several passengers and cutting himself so badly that he bled to death before he could be extricated from the tangled mass of passengers, glass, splintered wood and other wreckage.

The car line was blocked for nearly an hour while the dead horse was being dug and hauled from the smashed car. The animal was attached to a wagon belonging to H. Waller, of No. 296 State street, and was driven by Jacob Schaller, who left it standing in front of No. 147 West Thirty-eighth street while he delivered an order, and the animal ran away.

Making a bee-line down Thirty-eighth street, he stopped for nothing, taking a wheel of a hansom that did not get out of the way quick enough, and scattering pedestrians in all directions.

At Sixth avenue a car crowded with Christmas shoppers, most of them women, was crossing Thirty-eighth street on the downtown track. The horse made no effort to turn out of the way for it, but crashed head on into the side of it.

In a manner unaccountable by those who witnessed it, the horse literally threw himself into the car, through the windows, boards and all.

His head and forelegs were in the car and the wagon was piled in a heap on his hind quarters. Cut by the glass and splintered wood an artery in the horse's neck was severed and the blood, with every heart beat, spurted over the panic-stricken passengers.

A shaft struck a woman in the back and for a time rendered her unconscious. She was dragged off the car and when she regained her senses she would not give her name or address, but called a cab and was driven to a house in Fifty-ninth street, west of Fifth avenue.

The other passengers got out without serious injury, but many of them were slightly cut and scratched and several were bleeding. The horse died before it could be lifted from its position and the rig was tied up for nearly an hour while a wedding crew arranged a derby and hoisted the horse from the car.

## "GOO-GOO" EYES" BOO-BOO PLAY.

Outlaws Wonderful "Lamps," with Wicks Turned Up, Are Chief Factors in Plot of New Melodrama.

### ODD DOINGS IN PITTSBURG.

Stage Happenings Are Not Convincing, but the Biddle Eyes Are Real and They Hypnotize the Women On and Off the Stage.

A voting contest at the Grand Opera-House last night would doubtless have determined that "the eyes have it" in "A Wonderful Eye Work of Big Biddle Brother."

After the eyes which an odd actor named Orin Kyle makes as Ed Biddle, it is easy to understand how the irresistible outlaw influenced the Pittsburgh prison warden's wife to aid him and his brother in their attempt to escape.

When the Ed Biddle of the Theodore Krammer melodrama turned up the wicks of his "lamps" women all over the house had to hang on to their seats to keep from being jured over the footlights.

As for the women in the play, they fell under the fatal spell of those double-lensed "goo-goo" eyes, the minute enticing Edward appeared, the scene they received the first shock in a grocery store. For a minute or so black-eyed Ed stood outside and sent his piercing glance through the window. You could almost hear the glass crack. Then, with his imitation Panama hat set dashing on one side of his handsome head, he came in and worked his searchlights at close range.

"Oh, those eyes!" exclaimed an impressionable widow, who was buying some canned eggs for breakfast.

"He has a great eye for female beauty," observed the grocer.

Then the warden and his wife—the former looking like a physical culturist, the latter like a woman with a bare-legged daughter and got a vivid flash. They were in evening toga. Belasco said they had been to a show, thus throwing a sidelight on Pittsburgh night life and disclosing that the grocery stores keep open after the theatres close.

Fascinating Ed transfixed the warden's wife with his baleful gaze and she fell gasping on the cushioned counter.

A sardonic smile curved Ed's chiselled lips. He moved nearer to her with easy grace, and giving Belasco a hard look, began paying her compliments. He said her beauty was just his style. Her breath came in short pants. Belasco glared. Finally Edward the Bold became so personal in his remarks that Belasco made a rush for him. Bystanders interfered, and the dear little bare-legged child got Jack Biddle to promise that he wouldn't let his wicked brother hurt her papa.

The grocer had remarked in the hearing of the Biddle brothers that his receipts that day had been \$300. In a husky aside Jack had observed: "A money makes a fellow's mouth water."

As soon as the lights were out and the violinists in the orchestra began plucking stealthy music off their strings the brothers came back with a dark lantern and a sinister purpose.

A sleepwalking specialty. They had just broken in when the warden's little child, who was sleeping at the grocer's, did a sleepwalking specialty. Without responding to an encore she went up in the centre of the stage, still asleep.

This was the grocer's cue to come in and get shot. Ed Biddle leaped from behind a counter and plunked him through the heart.

The little girl slept on, but Ed believed her shamming and stole toward her.

"She will betray us!" he whispered, as he placed the muzzle of his weapon close to the child's flaxen head.

"Oh, cried horror-stricken women in the audience.

But Jack Biddle raised a restraining hand. "No," he said; "you shall not kill the child."

Quick curtain.

In the Prison.

The next act showed the Biddle brothers in the Pittsburgh prison.

Then the warden's wife brought flowers for Ed, and even the grocery store couple presented the star, only with a bunch. He got all the bouquets, real and verbal.

Ed harvested the roses and manipulated his "goo-goo" eyes through the bars on the warden's wife. Belasco let her sympathize with the Biddles. He believed in her saying such things as: "A good woman's love redeems the world."

Ed put her in such a trance that she cried: "When I look into your eyes I could defy the universe!"

She brought the Biddles awe and alas.

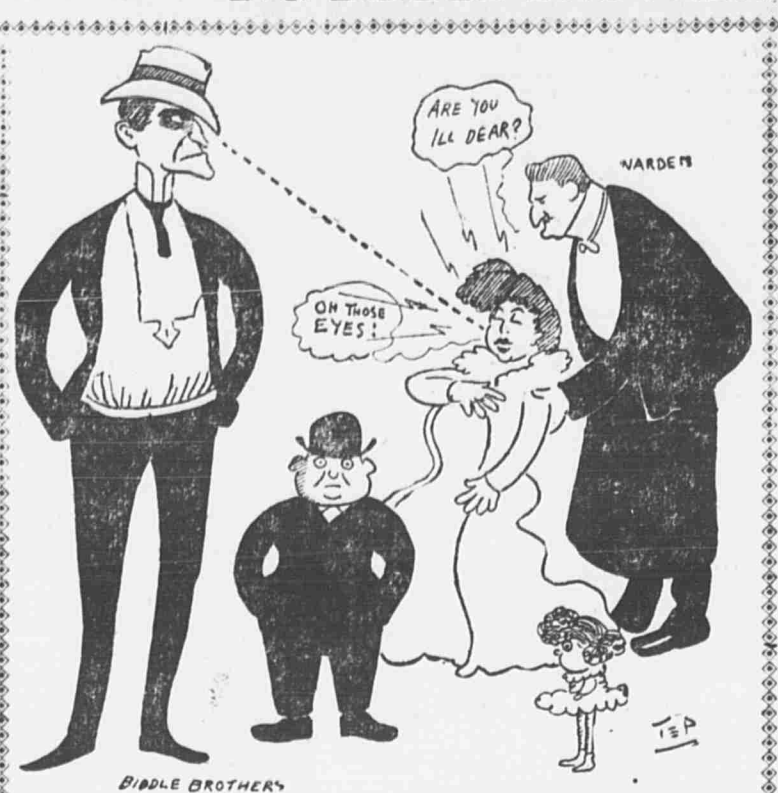
The Old Almanac.

Almanacs were in use long before the art of printing was discovered, but since the advent of the movable types and the printing press, their number and variety have become legion. Millions upon millions of them are printed annually, and most of them for free distribution. Each year they are made more attractive and published in greater numbers. The calendar, an invention of recent years, was popular for a time, but it could not supplant that old and venerable almanac.

With its astronomical calculations and its more or less accurate weather predictions. While the almanacs of to-day are issued primarily for advertising purposes, they are nevertheless a very interesting matter and are made attractive in every way possible, else they would not be read, and the money invested would be money wasted. Chas. Fletcher's New York Almanac has ever been one of the foremost in the nation, and the 1903 edition is no exception. It has a handsome lithographed cover, and it contains the usual number of jokes, much valuable information relative to the care of infants, a record page in blank for baby's early days, and promises that will help to pass away many a long evening. Here is one: "A child asked her father how old he was, and the father replied, 'I am just six weeks old as you are, but in twenty-four years you will be one-half as old as I am.' What were their ages?"

We understand that this Almanac may be had for the asking, either at drug stores or direct from Chas. Fletcher, New York City.

## WONDERFUL EYE WORK OF BIG BIDDLE BROTHER.



Act 1. Scene 1.—The Warden, his wife and child, after attending the opera, wander into a grocery to buy a can of peas. It is here they encounter the Biddle brothers. "Ed," throws his hypnotic eye at the Warden's wife, and she is his. "Oh, those eyes," she gasps. "He always had a hankering for petticoats," says "Jack."

and guns. To divert suspicion while he worked on the bars, Ed said "The Holy City."

The warden's wife went back to the house, sang her child to sleep and doped Belasco by putting knock-out drops in his wine.

Over in the jail Ed Biddle sent one of the guards to get a can of peas. Jack Biddle lured the remaining guard up to his cell on the same plan, and worked his searchlights at close range.

The scene shifted to a wood in which the fugitives and pursuers arrived in sleighs drawn by horses suffering from stage fright. It snowed pitilessly in the centre of the stage. There was a fusillade of shots, and the Biddles were down and out.

The last act showed the Biddles dying on a cot in the Butler County Jail. Jack had lasted a little longer he would have got a bunch of violets which the little girl brought. But his life, unlike Ed's, was fated to be flowerless. Ed effected a reconciliation between Belasco and his wife, and the final curtain fell on more work for the undertaker.

**A. OTHER HOUSES.**

At the Garden Theatre Mr. Willard gave his fine and powerful impersonation of Cyrus Bicknam, the old potter, in "The Middleman."—Francis Wilson and his comic-opera associates made merry in "The Toreador" at the Harlem Opera-House.—David Higgins and Georgia Wadron, in that pretty play, "Up York State," were cordially welcomed back to New York at the Williams Street Theatre.—"The Charity Ball," with Bijou Fernandez as Ann Cruger, was creditably presented by the Herbert Stock Company at the Circle Theatre.

Monte Cristo, with Ralph Stuart in the title role, was revived at the Murray Hill.—Dennan Thompson, in "The Old Homestead," gave a strong attraction at the West End Theatre.—"Are You a Mason?" kept a large audience at the Metropolitan.

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